



DECLARATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT OF CANADA, THE SECRETARIAT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT OF CANADA, THE SECRETARIAT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”;

Building on previous exchanges and formal agreements, including:

- The Memorandum of Cooperation on Sharing Short Sea Shipping Information and Experience between the Transportation Authorities of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America, signed 6 November 2003;
- Commitments made under the Security and Prosperity Partnership trilateral action plan designed to increase the security, prosperity, and quality of life in North America; and
- The April 2006 North American Short Sea Shipping Conference,

The Participants do hereby declare:

1. PURPOSE

The Purpose of this Declaration is to provide a general framework for the establishment of the North American Short Sea Shipping Steering Committee (the “Steering Committee”), through which the Participants can continue to enhance their trilateral cooperation and build upon the work of each nation to develop insights into the challenges associated with the enhanced use of short sea shipping, and to ultimately develop a North American short sea shipping strategy.

2. OBJECTIVE

The Participants’ objective in establishing the Steering Committee is to build an active relationship between the Participants within which the experience and professional knowledge of each can be shared.

3. SCOPE

- a. The Steering Committee’s cooperative efforts should initially be focused on the creation of a Short Sea Shipping Promotion Centre.
- b. Additional areas of cooperation should include exploring:
 - i. Benefits of enhanced use of short sea shipping (e.g. relieving congestion at choke points, enhancing supply chain efficiencies, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions);
 - ii. Mechanisms to mitigate barriers and facilitate the use of short sea shipping through the development of a short sea shipping data base and a North American short sea shipping information clearing house;
 - iii. Opportunities to undertake trilateral promotional activities; and

- iv. Opportunities to explore specific cross-border short sea shipping business case proposals from industry.
- c. The Steering Committee should also cooperate, subject to the capacities of the respective Participants, in the following activities:
 - i. Regular workshops and roundtables;
 - ii. Research and the establishment of dedicated working groups and networks on matters of specific interest;
 - iii. Ongoing exchange of relevant materials and information between policy centres and offices with common interests;
 - iv. Potential partnerships on ad hoc conferences; and
 - v. Other co-operation that the respective Participants deem appropriate and feasible.

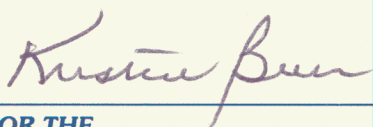
4. IMPLEMENTATION

It is the intention of the Participants to have roundtable discussions between senior officials at least every six months to discuss the implementation of this Declaration. The Participants each intend to designate a Coordinator to aid in the effective implementation of this Declaration. The Coordinators should determine, via regular contact, the additional activities to be carried out between the Participants and develop work plans as required.

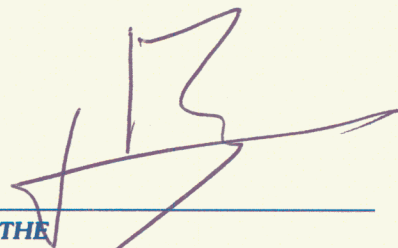
5. DURATION

The Participants intention is to have this Declaration come into effect upon signature. They may amend it in writing upon their mutual consent.

Signed in triplicate, in Vancouver, on this 20th day of April 2006 in the English, French and Spanish languages.



**FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
OF CANADA**



**FOR THE
SECRETARIAT OF TRANSPORT
AND
COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UNITED
MEXICAN STATES**



**FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**